



## A New Fire Engine is Born

On November 12, 2004, a brand new, shiny, white fire engine with red stripes pulled into the Grant Grove Fire Station. "I'm so glad it's finally here," said Larry Smith, Grant Grove Engine Captain. "It's been a long process to get a new engine, but it was worth the wait."

The new and improved "Engine-52" will be used to support structural fire operations in Kings Canyon National Park. In the past, the park had two wildland engines (Engines 51 and 52) but could not provide initial attack for buildings such as employee residences, private homes, park facilities, hotel rooms, and cabins. Now, Engine 52 will respond to structural fires with a Volunteer Fire Company (and, at times, assist if needed on wildland fires). Engine 51 will continue to respond to wildland fires with a full-time National Park Service crew.



"We didn't buy this fire engine off the showroom floor," said David Bartlett, Kings Canyon District Fire Management Officer. "It was designed and built to navigate the narrow, twisty roads in our area while still retaining all the capabilities of a larger piece of equipment." A team developed the specifications for the engine based on what it needed to accomplish. They developed a detailed list of features – everything from tank size to the exact locations of hardware like discharges and intakes. In the end, the engine holds 1,000 gallons of water (up from 500 gallons in the old engine) and is capable of pumping 1,500 gallons per minute, which is more pumping capacity than any other engine in Sequoia or Kings Canyon.

The contract for building the engine was awarded to a company called Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc. located in Holden, Louisiana. Park staff worked closely with the company throughout the construction process to ensure that everything progressed smoothly. When it was finally done, Bartlett and Smith traveled to Louisiana to inspect the engine before a company representative drove it across the country for delivery. It cost just under \$195,000 and was paid for with Structural Fire Equipment Replacement Funds.

"I'm proud of how so many people worked together as a team to buy the right piece of equipment so that we can fulfill our mission in the park," said David Bartlett. Help came from the National Interagency Fire Center, the Pacific West Regional Contracting Office, and the parks' own contracting office.

In addition to all the serious uses for this engine, the Grant Grove fire staff looks forward to having some fun in an annual community event. The "homespun" Grant Grove Fourth of July parade features Wilsonia residents and NPS employees on bikes, golf carts, and wagons. "Our new engine will certainly be a highlight in this year's parade," laughs David Bartlett.